CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a particular user to program the particular user's remote control device for use with the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, the method comprising:

a) connecting a network connectable appliance to a dedicated server on the network in response to the particular user controlling the particular user's remote control device;

b) requesting, by the dedicated server via the network connectable appliance, alphanumeric information from the particular user, corresponding to the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, wherein said dedicated server request is made to said network connectable appliance responsive to said connection at said ~~step~~ act (a);

c) supplying, from the particular user to the dedicated server, via the network connectable appliance, the requested alphanumeric information, corresponding to the particular user's consumer electronics equipment;

d) performing a query, at the dedicated server, based on the alphanumeric information supplied by the particular user, to match the alphanumeric information supplied by the particular user with alphanumeric information stored in a data repository, wherein the data repository relates types, versions and brands of consumer electronics equipment to their respective control codes; ~~and~~

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e) downloading, from the dedicated server to the network connectable appliance, data representative of at least one control code, wherein said data matches the alphanumeric information supplied by the particular user for use with the particular user's consumer electronics equipment; and

f) programming the particular user's remote control device according to the downloaded data representative of at least one control code, via the network connectable appliance.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a menu to the particular user for customizing the programming of the particular user's remote control device in accordance with the downloaded data, prior to said act (e).

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said act (e) further comprises transmitting a wireless signal including the data representative of at least one control code from the network connectable appliance to the particular user's remote control device for the programming thereof.

4 - 6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a network connectable appliance configured to program a remote control device based on data received from a dedicated server, according to a user profile associated with the remote control device; and

the remote control device for user-control of the network connectable appliance including means for causing the network connectable appliance to initiate a connection to the dedicated server on the network;

the dedicated server configured to maintain a data repository comprising a plurality of user profiles;

the dedicated server being further configured to request alphanumeric information from a particular user's network connectable appliance, corresponding to the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, responsive to said connection to the network connectable appliance [[;]].

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the network connectable appliance includes means for allowing a user to customize the programming of the remote control device based on the data received from the server.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the network connectable appliance transmits a wireless signal to the remote control device to program the remote control device.

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10.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the network connectable appliance comprises a set top box.

11.   (Previously Presented)   A method of creating a customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, the method comprising:

enabling respective users of consumer electronics equipment to specify, to a dedicated server on a data network, alphanumeric information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment, wherein the users specify the information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment via a query/answer session conducted between the user and the dedicated server via an intermediary network compatible device;

creating a plurality of respective user profiles for the customer base based on the user supplied alphanumeric information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment conducted via said query/answer sessions; and

storing the alphanumeric information in the customer base.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

supplying targeted or customized advertisements or services to the respective users, via the respective network compatible devices thereby subsidizing the respective network compatible devices.

13. (Cancelled)

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14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising using the customer base to provide customized services to the respective users.

15.   (Previously Presented)   A method of providing a customized service to a user of consumer electronics equipment, the method comprising:

receiving, at a dedicated server on a data network, alphanumeric information about the user's consumer electronics equipment;

creating a user profile based on the information; and

using the user profile to enable the user to program, via the data network, a remote control device for controlling the user's consumer electronics equipment;

wherein the server stores the information in a customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, and each of the plurality of user profiles comprises at least one of (1) demographic information for an associated user and (2) data representative of a control code and/or UI for consumer electronics equipment information for an associated user.

16.   (Previously Presented) A method of enabling a user to control at least one consumer apparatus with a remote control device via a network connectable appliance, the method comprising: connecting the network connectable appliance to a dedicated server on the network in response to the user controlling the remote control device, the dedicated server

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having an associated customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, each of the plurality

of user profiles identifying one or more consumer apparatuses for an associated user; and

downloading, from the dedicated server to the appliance, data representative of at least

one control code for control of at least one consumer apparatus via the network connectable

appliance, according to a user profile associated with the remote control device.

17 - 18. (Cancelled)

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the menu allows the particular

user to specify whether certain operations provided by the downloaded data are desired.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the menu allows the particular

user to program a single action on the particular user's remote control device to cause the

execution of multiple activities of the particular user's consumer electronics equipment.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a display

with a graphical representation of the particular user's remote control device for use in the

programming of the particular user's remote control device.

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22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

downloading, from the dedicated server to the Internet-connectable appliance, user interface data regarding the particular user's remote control device.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

using the network connectable appliance for the programming of the particular user's remote control device according to the user interface data.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

the user interface data provides information regarding features that support user interaction with the user's remote control device.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

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